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EX-107-1111

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTROL U.S. OFFICIAL  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
REPORT NO.

25X1A

TOPIC Construction of KVP Firing Ranges in the Eggesin Forest Hampered by Financing  
Difficulties

25X1A EVALUATION

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1X SOURCE

1. Between 1 March and early April 1953, source determined that the entire project of the KVP firing ranges in the Eggesin Forest had the designation of Project XII and the code designation of "Aktion Foerster". Funds needed for the project at the beginning were estimated at 3,500,000 eastmarks. The project included firing ranges "Anton" and "Albert" for infantry weapons, firing range "Bruno" for artillery, and firing range "Caesar" for tank weapons.<sup>1</sup>
2. The rigorous cutdown of funds by the Ministry of the Interior involved a terrible confusion and a complete change of construction measures planned in Project XII. The balance made on 10 April 1953 showed a total of 2,300,000 eastmarks, which would have approximated 2,340,000 eastmarks if the remaining work were completed. The estimates presented to the Ministry of the Interior were not accepted.<sup>1</sup>
3. At a meeting on 12 April 1953, Working Manager Marcour, (fnu), and the construction directors working at Project XII decided to move the majority of the workers to save money. They determined that only 30 workers be left at range "Anton"; 30 workers at range "Albert"; and 150 to 170 workers at range "Caesar". Range "Bruno" had already been completed and was being used at that time. All others were assigned to the "Arbeitskraeftelenkung des Objekts XII" (Labor Control Office of Project XII), which was instructed either to employ or dismiss them. By the mediation of this office some workers were employed in Fuerstenberg/Oder under Bau-Union Halle, and others under Bau-Union Wismar in Tutow, east of Demmin, where an airfield was projected. Since the billets required were still incomplete, a number of the workers moved again or were dismissed. Other workers were transferred to Bau-Union Nord and Bau-Union Kueste, but only a limited number reported to these agencies. Skilled labor was assigned to Bau-Union Sued.<sup>1</sup>
4. On 16 April 1953, Working Manager Marcour again submitted estimates to the Ministry of the Interior, which were rejected. At that time, Marcour was instructed that the Bau-Union should settle accounts on the basis of prime cost. The amount calculated by this method and increased by the additional charges for overhead expenses was 1,900,000 eastmarks or 52.4 percent.<sup>1</sup>

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5. On 18 April 1953, Mercour instructed the Oberbauleitung of Project XII to release all workers by 20 April 1953, thus discontinuing the work at Project XII.<sup>1</sup>
6. At a meeting on 22 April 1953, the local commander of Project XII, Lieutenant Colonel Bizuch (fnu), informed the construction directors of a directive issued by Minister of the Interior Willi Stoph, providing that all new towers for the A-type firing ranges of Project XII were to be erected by the Bau-Union. It further provided that the Bau-Union would install the target moving mechanisms at C and A-type firing ranges. Due to the shortage of field railroad tracks, however, the target moving installations for C-type firing ranges would be only two kilometers long, instead of twelve kilometers as originally planned, and the A-type ranges would be equipped with no more than four 12-meter and two 20-meter towers. Bizuch also demanded that, prior to individual activities at the ranges of Project XII, the Bau-Union detail one construction director to each range, sending Euchsies (fnu) to range "Anton", Wirts (fnu) to range "Albert", and Wiskemann (fnu) to range "Caesar", asking Klauke (fnu), responsible for shipments of timber from Project XII to Bau-Union Nord and appointing Eichelmann (fnu) chief construction director until completion of the ranges. He ordered that the ranges be finished up by labor units of the Volkspolizei under the supervision of the construction directors, with labor units assigned to range "Anton" coming from the Droegeheide summer camp; labor units assigned to range "Albert" coming from the Eggesin summer camp; and labor units assigned to range "Caesar" coming from the project in the north. Target dates for completion as indicated by Lieutenant Colonel Bizuch were 15 May 1953 for ranges "Anton" and "Albert", and 30 June 1953 for range "Caesar". Major General Hermann Rontzsch, Pasewalk, was said to be responsible for the observation of the target dates. After the period of the construction management of Bau-Union Nordost, one engineer officer, stationed at the office of the local commander, Lieutenant Colonel Bizuch, in Jaegerbrueck, will act as supreme supervisor and one technical officer will act at each range. Construction Manager Wiskemann (fnu), of the Bau-Union will remain at Project XII until 20 July 1953.<sup>2</sup>
7. Ranges "Anton" and "Albert" for infantry weapons were used to a limited extent in about mid-April 1953. Units from the Droegeheide camp were based at range "Anton". Practice during the first days included anti-air target practice at a distance of 80 meters and later, range practices with rifles, submachine guns, light machine guns and heavy machine guns at distances of 100 and 150 meters, fired from prone positions as well as from trenches with embankment. The results of those exercises were rated poor.
8. At the time of observation, VP units from Pinnow and Pasewalk daily held firing practices with light and medium AT guns at range "Bruno", which was used after 18 March 1953. Lieutenant Colonel Bizuch said that the number of hits was very high, and that additional measures were taken at and around the range.<sup>3</sup> security
9. Range "Caesar" was scheduled to be completed to some extent, allowing to start practices on 30 May 1953. In mid-May 1953, about 100 VPs, who were supervised by Construction Director Antsch (fnu), and a number of foremen of Bau-Union Nordost, worked at the site in day and night shifts. T-43 tanks were occasionally observed firing at field targets with submachine guns with small-caliber barrels in front of the range.<sup>4</sup>

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1. ☐ Comment. This training ground which was first constructed at the KVP is determined to be used mainly by Armeegruppe Nord. The limitation of the construction projects may negatively affect the training program of the troops. For this reason it is expected that the assignment of construction missions to the troops will continue.

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2. ☐ Comment. The practicing troops presumably belonged to the Prora Division, one infantry regiment and other elements of which are stationed at Camp Droegeheide.

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3. ☐ Comment. Artillery units of the Prora Division also held firing practices, which discontinued about mid-April 1953.

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